AN ACT

OF THE 7.

Commons of England

IN

Parliament assembled;

For the Relief, and Imployment of the Poor, and the punishing of Vagrants and other disorderly Persons, within the City of *London*, and Liberties thereof.

Whereby is constituted a Corporation, or Body Politick, consisting of a President, Deputy, Treasurer, and Assistants for the due ordering and putting in execution the said Act.

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AN ACT

FOR

The Relief, and Imployment of the poor, and the Puniſhment of Vagrants, and other diſorderly Perſons, within the City of *London* and Liberties thereof.

WHereas the neceſſity, number, and increaſe of the Poor, is very great within the City of *London*, and Liberties thereof, for want of due proviſion, for their relief & imployment; and through neglect of the due execution of ſuch Laws and Statutes, as have beene formerly made; For remedy whereof, and for the better execution of the Laws and Statutes heretofore made in this behalf, and for the further redreſſe of the miſchiefs intended to be

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hereby remedied; Be it enacted by this preſent Parliament, and by the authority of the ſame, and it is hereby enacted, That from henceforth, there be and ſhall be a Corporation within the ſaid City of *London*, and Liberties thereof, conſiſting of a Preſident; Deputy to the Preſident, a Treaſurer, and fifty eight Aſſiſtants, whereof the Lord Maior of the ſaid City, for the time being, to be the Preſident, and ten of the ſaid Aſſiſtants to be of the Aldermen of the ſaid City for the time being, and the other fifty to be Freemen of, and Inhabitants of the ſaid City, choſen out of the ſeverall Wards of the ſaid City, two out of every Ward reſpectively; And that Sir *John Wollaſton*, *Iſaac Penington*, *Thomas Atkin*, *Thomas Andrews*, *Samuel Avery*, *John Bide*, *Thomas Vyner*, *Rowland Wilſon*, *Chriſtopher Pack*, and *John Dethick*, Aldermen of the ſaid City, ſhall be the firſt ten Aldermen of the preſent Aſsiſtants, and that *Francis Waterhouſe* ſhall be the preſent Deputy to the Preſident, and that *Maurice Gething*, ſhall be the preſent Treaſurer, and that *James Ruſſell*, *Richard Glyd*, *William Jeſton*, *Tempeſt Milner*, *William Kendall*,

Corporation conſiſts of a *Preſident*, *Deputy*, *Treaſurer*, and fifty eight *Aſsiſtants*.

Kendall, *Toby Liſle*, *Edmund Whitewell*, *Iohn Cock*, *Robert Mead*, *William Bromwich*, *Iohn Everett*, *Iohn Iones*, *Iohn Bellamy*, *Iohn Babington*, *Richard Garforth*, *Robert Tichbourne*, *Iohn Perrin*, *Thomas Bromfield*, *Samuel Moyer*, *Dierich Hoſt*, *Richard Coyſh*, *Nicholas Corſellis*, *William Pennoyer*, *Chriſtopher Loaves*, *Lawrence Steel*, *Richard Floyde*, *Thomas Ienner*, *Lawrence Brinley*, *Rice Buſh*, *Thomas White*, *Benjamin Blundell*, *Thomas Dawney*, *Abraham Babington*, *Jacob Iurin*, *Edward Odlin*, *Thomas Britwell*, *James Story*, *Iohn Berriford*, *William Wyberd*, *Richard Waring*, *Iohn Dodd*, *Walter Lee*, *Harman Sheaf*, *Iohn Fletcher*, *Owen Rowe*, *Mark Hilſley*, *Iohn Stone*, and *Clement Ireton*, Citizens of *London*, ſhall be the other Aſſiſtants, and that the ſucceeding Deputy, and Treaſurer ſhall from henceforth, and from time to time be Eligible by the ſaid Corporation, or any ſeven, or more of them, yearly on the five and twentieth day of *Iune*, or within twenty eight days then next following, and ſhall have hereby power and authority, and are hereby authoriſed at any time or times, upon juſt and reaſonable cauſe, to amove the ſaid

Deputy Preſident, and *Treaſurer*, to be choſen by the Corporation yearly.

Deputy, and Treaſurer for the time being, or either of them from their places; And upon ſuch removall, or death of them, or either of them, to elect one other Deputy, and Treaſurer, or either of them into the ſaid place, or places reſpectively; And that ſuch five of the ten Aldermen (being Aſſiſtants) as the Common-councell of the City of *London* think fit, ſhall fall off, or be amoved yearly, on the ſaid five and twentieth day of *June*, or within twenty eight days after; And that other five Aldermen ſhall be yearly elected, by the ſaid Common-councell, on the day and time aforeſaid, to be Aſſiſtants in the place of ſuch as ſhall ſo fall off, or be amoved; And that ſuch five and twenty of the other Aſſiſtants, as the ſeverall Wards reſpectively ſhall think fit, ſhall likewiſe fall off, to be amoved yearly on the ſaid five and twentieth day of *June*, or within twenty eight days after; and that five and twenty other perſons, ſhall be yearly elected within the time aforeſaid by the Inhabitants of every Ward reſpectively, to be aſſiſtants in the places of ſuch as ſhall die, or be amoved as aforeſaid; And

Deputy, Preſident, and *Treaſurer*, to be amoved &c.

Five Aldermen to fall off yearly.

Other five Aldermen to be elected by Common-councell.

Twenty five *Aſſiſtants*, to fall off yearly.

And that the firſt choice of all the ſaid Aſſiſtants ſhall be made upon the five and twentieth day of *June* in the year of our Lord God 1650. or within twenty eight days then next following. And it is further enacted, by the authority aforeſaid; That the ſaid Preſident, Deputy, Treaſurer, and Aſsiſtants for the time being, ſhall for ever hereafter, in name and fact, be one Body Politique, and Corporate in Law, to all intents and purpoſes, and ſhall have a perpetuall Succeſsion, and ſhall be called by the name of the Preſident, and Governours, for the Poor of the City of *London*, and Liberties thereof, and ſue or plead, or be ſued and impleaded by the name aforeſaid, in all Courts and places of Judicature within this Nation: And by that name ſhall and may without Licenſe in Mortmain purchaſe, or receive any Lands, or Tenements, Hereditaments, not exceeding the yearly value of two thouſand pounds of the Gift, Alienation, or Deviſe of any perſon or perſons, who are hereby without further Licenſe, enabled to give the ſame, and any Goods, Chattels, or ſummes of Money,

The Incorporation.

Perpetuall ſucceſſion.

Title.

To ſue, plead, and be impleaded.

To purchaſe or receive Lands, &c.

Money, whatſoever, to the uſe, intent, and purpoſe, hereafter limited, and appointed; And the ſaid Corporation, or any ſeven of them ſhall have hereby power, and authority from time to time, to meet and keep Courts, for the ends and purpoſes in this Act expreſſed, at ſuch time and place, as ſhall be appointed by the ſaid Preſident, or his Deputy, who are hereby required upon deſire of any four of the ſaid Corporation, at any time to cauſe a Court to be warned accordingly; And ſhall have hereby authority from time to time, to make, and appoint a Common Seal for the uſe of the ſaid Corporation. And it is further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, That it is, and ſhall be lawfull to, and for the ſaid Preſident and Governours of the ſaid Corporation, for the time being, or any two of them, from time to time, to apprehend, or cauſe to be apprehended, any Rogues, Vagrants, Sturdy Beggers, idle, and diſorderly perſons within the ſaid City, and Liberties, and to cauſe them to be ſet and kept to work; And ſuch of them as by any former Statute, are declared

Any ſeven to keep Courts.

A Common Seal.

Any two to apprehend idle perſons.

red to be Rogues, to be duly puniſhed by putting in the Stocks, or whipping, as they ſhall finde cauſe; and ſhall alſo have power to diſpoſe of them to their places of birth, or laſt abode, as the caſe, according to the Laws and Statutes in that caſe provided ſhall require; and alſo that it ſhall bee lawfull for the ſaid Preſident, and Governours or any two of them, to apprehend, or cauſe to bee apprehended, and kept at worke, all ſuch other Poore Perſons, and Baſtard children, and other Poore children able to work, and inhabiting within the ſaid City and Liberties, who are chargeable to any Pariſh, or have not ſufficient to maintaine themſelves; And in caſe of their refuſall ſo to worke, That then it ſhall and may bee lawfull, to and for the ſaid Preſident, and Governours, or any ſeven of them to puniſh, or cauſe to bee puniſhed as Vagrants, ſuch perſons ſo refuſing to work; And bee it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, as well for the purpoſes aforeſaid, as for the better execution of Juſtice within the ſaid City and Liberties, That all and every the Aldermen of

Rogues to be puniſhed.

Any two to cauſe other perſons to be kept to work.

Upon refuſall to worke, to puniſh, &c.

All the Aldermen that have been Sheriffs to be Justices.

the said City, which hath performed and passed, or that hereafter perform and passe the Office of Sheriffe of *London*, at the end of his, and their Sherivalty, and during such time as he and they shall continue Alderman, taking the Oath of a Justice of Peace appointed by Parliament, which the Maior, Recorder, or either of them, hereby have power to administer unto them; shall be hereby a Justice of Peace to all intents and purposes whatsoever; and shall and may from henceforth doe and execute accordingly within the said City and Liberties thereof without any other Commission, any Law, Statute, Custome, or Usage in any wise to the contrary notwithstanding.

Order touching the Sessions of Peace.

Provided always, That no Sessions of the Peace shall be holden, and kept within the said City and Liberties, without the presence or appointment of the Maior, or Recorder, and the presence of three, or more, of other Justices of Peace of the said City for the time being. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in regard of the great inequality of the ordering, and relieving of the Poore

through

through the different abilities of the ſeverall and reſpective Wards, in the City of *London*, and Liberties thereof, The ſaid Corporation or any ſeven of them, ſhall be hereby authoriſed with conſent of the Common-Councell of the ſaid City, to divide the ſeverall Wards, with the Poor, and Stock to them belonging, into four equall parts and proportions, for the more effectuall and indifferent relief of the Poor, and the avoiding future differences, and diſſentions between the rich and poor Pariſhes. And it is enacted by the authority aforeſaid, for the better relief of impotent aged perſons, and others not able to work, and fit to be relieved, and for the imploying of the other Poor as aforeſaid, within the ſaid City and Liberties, and providing all things for the execution of the work, intended by this Act; That if the ſaid Preſident and Governours ſhall certifie their want and defect, either of a preſent ſtock for the foundation thereof, or for ſupply thereof for the future, and what ſumme and ſummes of Money they think fit for the ſame under their Common Seal to

Wards with the Poor and Stock to be divided into four parts, &c.

To Certifie want of Stock to the Common-Councell.

Commo' Councell to proportion the ſumme upon the Wards.

the Common-Councell of the ſaid City, That thereupon the ſaid Common councell are hereby authoriſed and required from time to time to ſet down and aſcertaine ſuch competent ſumme or ſummes of Money for the purpoſes aforeſaid, and the ſame to proportion out upon the ſeverall Wards as they ſhall thinke fit; and thereupon the

Who ſhall taxe the Inhabitants.

Aldermen, Deputy, and Common-councell-men of every Ward, or the greater number of them, ſhall have power and authority, and are hereby required equally and indifferently, according to proportion appointed for the ſeverall Wards as aforeſaid, to taxe and rate the ſeverall Inhabitants within the ſaid reſpective Wards: with which taxe, if any perſon or perſons ſhall finde him, or themſelves grieved, as ſuppoſing the ſame to bee unequall, hee and

Relief for any unequally taxed.

they ſhall, and may make their complaint knowne to the Juſtices of the Peace, at the next open Seſſions, who ſhall take ſuch finall order therein, as in like caſes is already by the Law provided. And it is further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall, and may bee lawfull to, and for

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the ſaid Preſident and Governours, upon taxations, and diſtribution made as aforeſaid, the ſame being made knowne to them by the ſaid Aldermen, or Deputy of the ſaid ſeverall Wards by their Certificate in writing under their hands, to make warrants under the hands of them, or any two of them, to bee directed to any one, or more of their Officers, to demand, gather and receive, of every perſon and perſons, ſuch ſumme and ſummes of Money, as ſhall be aſſeſſed upon them, by vertue of the Taxations and Contributions aforeſaid; And for default of payment within ten dayes after demand made thereof, or notice in writing left at the dwelling houſe, or lodging of every perſon ſo aſſeſſed, to leavy the ſame by diſtreſſe and ſale of the goods of every ſuch perſon, and after ſatisfaction made, to reſtore the ſurpluſage to the party ſo diſtrained. And it is further enacted by the authority aforeſaid; That the aforeſaid Corporation, or any ſeven perſons, Members thereof, or the ſaid Deputy and Treaſurer (for the time being) or one of them, together with one

Corporation ſo to appoint officers to receive taxations.

For default, to leavy the ſame by diſtreſs.

Any ſeven of the Corporation to execute as much as one Juſtice, &c.

Deputy and *Treasurer*, the like.

or more of the Aldermen of the said City, Members of the said Corporation, shall and may within the said City and Liberties doe and execute in every respect for the better carrying on of this work, such thing, or things, Act, or Acts, as is allowed and appointed by any Law, or Statute, to be done and executed by any one, or more Justice, or Justices of Peace of the said City; or of any County within this Realm, for and concerning the relief and imployment of the Poor, and the punishment of Vagrants, and other disorderly persons, and the setting and keeping them to work within the said City, and Liberties thereof; And to put in execution any Law or Statute, (now in force) touching binding out poor children Apprentices, for the relief of the Poor, punishing Rogues and Beggers; And for effecting the remedies hereby intended. And it is enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said President and Governours, or any seven of them, shall have power from time to time, to make and constitute Orders and Bylaws, for the better relieving,

Power to make By-laws.

regula-

regulating, and ſetting the Poor on work, and the apprehending and puniſhing of Rogues, Vagabonds, and Beggers within the ſaid City and Liberties, that have not wherewith honeſtly to maintain themſelves, and for other the matters aforeſaid; Provided, the ſaid Orders and By-laws ſhall from time to time, be preſented to, and allowed by the Common-councell of the ſaid City, and by three, or more of the Juſtices of the Upper Bench, Common Pleas, and Barons of the Exchequer. And it is further enacted by the authority aforeſaid; That the Treaſurer of the ſaid Corporation, for the time being, ſhall once in every year yearly, between the four and twentieth of *June*, and the nine and twentieth of *September*, or oftner, if need require, give a true and perfect accompt in writing of all the receipts, charges, and diſburſments in, and about the premiſes, unto the Auditors, for the time being, appointed for taking the Accompts of the Chamberlain, and Bridgemaſters of the ſaid City, and the ſaid Accompt to remain in the cuſtody of the Chamberlain of the ſaid City; And it

By-laws to be allowed by, &c.

Treaſurer to accompt yearly.

is

is enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that an Ordinance made this preſent Parliament the ſeventeenth day of *December*, 1647. and every clauſe and thing therein contained, concerning any proviſion and relief for the Poor of *London*, and the Liberties thereof, be, and are hereby made Null and repealed. And it is enacted by the authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawfull to and for the ſaid Preſident and Governours, or ſeven of them, to make enquiry for, and after any charitable gift, or grant heretofore given and appointed, or hereafter to be given and appointed to, and for the maintenance and relief of the Poor within the ſaid City and Liberties thereof, and to act and proceed thereupon for diſcovering and reforming the miſimployment thereof, in ſuch manner as any Commiſſioners for charitable uſes, may doe by vertue of the Statute of 43 *Eliz. Chap.* 4. And that the ſaid Preſident and Governors ſhall, and may by themſelves, or ſuch as they ſhall appoint under their Common Seal, freely and without fees ſearch in any Courts, or Offices

Corporation to enquire after any Charitable gift, &c.

Corporation &c. to ſearch for any Records, &c.

Offices for any Records, or evidences, for the diſcovery of any matter or thing concerning the ſame. And it is further enacted, That the ſaid Preſident and Governours, or any twenty, or more of them, being aſſembled together, ſhall have hereby power to chooſe, and entertain all ſuch Officers and others, as ſhall be needfull to be imployed in, and about the premiſes, and them, or any of them from time to time to remove, as they ſhall ſee cauſe; And upon the death or removall of them, or any of them, to chooſe others in their places for the carrying on of this work, and to make, and give ſuch reaſonable allowances unto them, or any of them, out of the ſtock and revenue belonging to the ſaid Corporation, as they ſhall think fit; and it is enacted by the authority aforeſaid, for the further relief, and imploying of the ſaid poor, within the ſaid City and Liberties thereof, That the ſaid Preſident and Governours, or any ſeven of them ſhall have hereby power to erect one or more Work-houſe or Work-houſes for receiving, relieving, and ſetting the poor to work, and one or

Twenty to chooſe Officers.

To erect Work-houſes.

more houſe or houſes of Correction, as they ſhall think fit, for puniſhing of Rogues, Vagabonds, and Beggers; And it is further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if upon any action, ſuit, or plaint, to be commenced, or proſecuted by any perſon or perſons, in any Court whatſoever, againſt the ſaid Preſident and Governours, any of the ſaid Juſtices of the peace hereby authoriſed, or any of them, or any perſon or perſons, for doing or executing any thing by their, or any of their Order, Warrant, command, or direction, or coming into their, or any of their aid, or aſſiſtance, in, about or concerning the premiſes, the Defendant or Defendants may plead the generall iſſue of not guilty, and ſhall and may give the ſpeciall matter in evidence, and if upon triall of the cauſe, it ſhall appear the ſaid defendant, or defendants, did act or doe the matter in queſtion by vertue of this Act, or that the matter of fact whereupon the iſſue is joyned, was done in any other County, then where the ſame fact is laid to be done, That in ſuch caſe the Jury that ſhall try the ſame, ſhall find

To plead the generall iſſue.

find the defendant, or defendants in every ſuch action, plaint, or ſuit, not guilty; And if in any action, plaint, or ſuit, the plaintiffe or plaintiffs become non-ſuit, or ſuffer any diſcontinuance thereof, or verdict ſhall paſs againſt him, or them; that in every the ſaid caſes, the defendant, or defendants ſhall have double coſts, and all other advantages and remedies, as in other caſes where coſts by the Laws of this Realm are given to defendants; And it is further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that all Sheriffs, Bayliffs, Conſtables, and all other Officers, and Miniſters of Juſtice, ſhall be aiding and aſſiſting to the ſaid Corporation, or any of them, and unto all ſuch Officers as ſhall be imployed by them for the better executing, and performance of the ſaid ſervice.

H. Scobell, Cleric Parliament.

Die Lunæ, 7. Maii, 1649.

ORdered by the Commons Aſſembled in Parliament, that this Act be forthwith Printed and publiſhed.

Hen. Scobell, Cler. Parliament.

FINIS.

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